FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

CHAPTER V.—DEPARTMENTS OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

(i) Food Supplies.

302. The Articles of Food Acquisition (Harvest) Order, 1949, promulgated in November 1949 continued to be in force during the year with the following amendments :—

"To facilitate the non-resident holders of Mysore and Madras to transport the produce of their lands to their places of residence in either of the two States, reciprocal arrangements were entered into with the Government of Madras (*vide* Notification No. SD. 50—C. 73-49-96, dated 5th April, 1950)."

303. The concession of exchanging one kind of grain to another was continued during the year with further facilities as follows :—

(i) One palla of ragi was permitted to be issued in exchange for 200 seers of paddy surrendered instead of 225 seers.

(ii) Wheat was permitted to be issued in exchange on the basis of 100 seers of wheat for 225 seers of paddy.

304. The seasonal conditions were very adverse at the beginning of the year. Early rains practically failed all over the State with the result that 'mungar' jola and Vaisakhi crops were considerably affected and agricultural operations for the Kharif crops also delayed. The failure of early rains resulted in a shrinkage of extent under cultivation during the year. Nevertheless, as the seasonal conditions became favourable in the latter part of the season, the yields of crops were slightly better than in the previous year. The final estimates of the acreage and production under the Kharif crops 1951 were as follows :—

		Acreage.	*Production (Pallas.)*
Paddy	...	7,62,469	50,46,580
Ragi	...	18,59,893	40,89,771
Jola	...	2,96,860	5,24,493
Minor Millets.	...	3,89,641	4,38,873

305. The scales of rations were altered twice during the year.

306. The following quantities of foodgrains were procured during the year:—

Paddy	...	17,62,139	pallas
Ragi	...	3,66,733	,,
Jola	...	33,802	,,
Wheat	...	23	,,
Other grains	...	10,765	,,

307. Seven lakhs of heavy *cee* gunnies were purchased through the Director of Supplies, Ministry of Industry and Supplies, Calcutta, from the Jute Mills at Calcutta at an approximate cost of Rs. 11 lakhs.

308. The basic plan for 1950 was operative from January to December 1950. A ceiling quota of 75,000 tons consisting of 25,000 tons of rice and 50,000 of wheat and wheat products was fixed for the State. As a consequence of repeated representations to the Government of India, an enhanced ceiling allotment of 97,425 tons of foodgrains was received. Against the State's actual deficit of 1,37,100 tons of foodgrains for the year 1951, a ceiling quota of only 75,000 tons was promised by the Centre.

309. The pool prices of imported foodgrains were revised by the Government of India as follows:—

Wheat	...	Rs.	16	6	0	per maund
Wheat Flour	...	,,	21	0	0	,,
Rice Fine	...	,,	26	8	0	,,
,, Coarse	...	,,	22	11	0	,,
,, Broken	...	,,	19	6	0	,,
Milo	...	,,	12	0	0	,,

310. The following quantities of foodgrains were received during the year under the basic plans of 1950 and 1951:—

Rice	...	17,367	tons
Millets	...	23,875	,,
Wheat	...	51,709	,,

311. At the Food Ministers' Conference held in Bombay in December 1950, the Government of India decided that the old scheme of subsidy should be revised so that with effect from 1st January 1951, the Government of India's responsibility for subsidising imported foodgrains would be limited to selected industrial and urban areas only and that for the rest of the country the Government of India would supply imported foodgrains wherever necessary at its pool price, leaving it to the States to subsidise such

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grains from their own finances if they considered it necessary to do so. So far as Mysore was concerned, 70,000 tons of foodgrains out of the ceiling quota of 75,000 tons were agreed to be supplied at the subsidised rates, leaving only 5,000 tons to be purchased at pool rates.

312. Statutory rationing was continued in the four Cities, *viz.*, Bangalore (including Civil Station), Mysore, Kolar Gold Field and Davangere and informal rationing continued over the rest of the State. Issues were made through Government Depots, Co-operative Societies, etc., as in previous years. The number of retail shops working at the end of the year was 1,767 (urban area 823 and rural area 944). The rationing administration of the Civil Station was merged with that of Bangalore City from 1st July 1950. Distribution in this area was continued as in the City through licensed depots and co-operative societies.

313. The concessions given to multi-purpose co-operative societies dealing in foodgrains were extended till the end of December 1950 and they were further extended till the end of March 1951.

314. On the principle that food supply operations should be put on a 'no profit and no loss' basis and that the subsidy on foodgrains should be gradually eliminated, the issue prices of foodgrains were revised during the year in July 1950 and February 1951, respectively.

From 1st August 1950—		
Rice I	... ...	2¼ seers per rupee
Rice II	... ...	2¾ ,,
Millets	... ...	4¾ ,,
Wheat (no change)	...	2½ ,,
From 12th February 1951—		
Rice I	... ...	2 seers per rupee
Rice II	... ...	2 3/8 ,,
Millets	... ...	4½ ,,
Wheat	... ...	Re. 0-6-8 ,,

315. With the revision, the subsidy on local foodgrains was eliminated and that on imported foodgrains brought down to Rs. 16,00,000.

316. The monthly offtakes during the year were generally less than in the previous year, on account mainly of the reduction in the scale of rations necessitated by reduced availabilities from imports, as compared to the previous

year. The offtakes reached the peak level of 23,375 tons in November 1950 due to distress and drought in certain parts of the State.

317. The following figures furnish the stock of different foodgrains in the State at the end of the year:—

Foodgrains	Position on 31-3-1951	Position on 31-3-1950
	Pallas.	
1. Paddy	9,32,861	8,63,295
2. Rice	1,12,561	1,33,005
3. Ragi	1,62,266	1,89,402
4. Broken Rice	1,258	2,957
5. Jola including Milo	21,175	11,236
6. Wheat products	1,731	7,532
7. Wheat	10,055	32,348
8. Maize	...	...
9. Minor Millets	6,079	4,231

318. Despite the delay in the commencement of harvest on account of belated agricultural operations, the acquisition of paddy made rapid progress in the period January—March 1951, thus improving the stock position of paddy by nearly 70,000 pallas more than in the corresponding period of last year. The stocks of wheat were comparatively low owing to inadequate supplies during the latter part of the year and also to increased consumption from August 1950 onwards.

319. The inter-district movement of foodgrains was primarily confined to rice from the Districts of Shimoga, Mysore, Mandya, Hassan and Chikmagalur to the principal deficit areas, *viz.*, Corporation of the City of Bangalore, Mysore City, Kolar Gold Fields, and Kolar, Bangalore, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. Ragi was moved in smaller quantities from all Districts except Mandya mainly to Bangalore, Mysore City, and Kolar Gold Fields. The movement was arranged as usual under monthly quotas supplying areas fixed at the beginning of each month with reference to availabilities. Owing to the limited supplies from imports, the volume of local movements had to be increased to secure a better adjustment of available resources to the requirements of the several consuming areas.

320. The scheme for utilisation of the services of the rice millowners in the procurement of paddy and its hulling and despatch of rice to the deficit areas was continued under a revised agreement approved by Government in December 1950. A new proviso was added for the

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levy of a penal rate in respect of shortages of rice delivered by rice mill owners over one per cent. The ban on the polishing of rice continued throughout the year.

321. In pursuance of the policy of utilisation of 25 per cent of the food bonus allowed by the Government of India towards the construction of godowns and the storage of foodgrains, a sum of Rs. 8,89,201 became available for being utilised for the construction of godowns. Proposals for the construction of seven godowns in all the undermentioned places, at an approximate cost of Rs. 4,20,000 were formulated and the plans and estimates prepared by the Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings sent to the Government of India for approval :—

Davangere
Tarikere
Chikmagalur
Chitaldrug
Kolar
Kolar Gold Fields and
Holalkere

322. The construction of seven more godowns is under consideration.

323. The usual measures of preservation, pest-control and sanitation were conducted periodically in all the Government godowns and emergency depots in Bangalore City. In view of the large stocks held in Bangalore City and in pursuance of the suggestions of the Director of Storage, the setting up of a technical organisation to attend to the storage and preservation of foodgrains was sanctioned in October 1950. Godown Inspection Committees were also appointed at all District Headquarter towns and in the Cities of Bangalore, Mysore, Davangere and Kolar Gold Fields with the association of non-official members for the periodical inspection of Reserve Godowns and for advising on the improvements of the quality of foodgrains and the maintenance of storage in good order.

324. With a view to have uniformity of procedure in all the statutorily rationed areas, the Bangalore City Rationing Regulation of 1943 was repealed and the Statutorily Rationed Areas Regulation of 1950 promulgated under clause 13 of the Mysore Rationing Order (Food) No. 2 of 1943, was brought into effect in all the rationed areas from 15th November 1950.

325. Since the currency of the ration cards in all the statutorily rationed areas expired by the end of December 1950, new ration cards were issued in all these areas operative from 1st January 1951. This occasion was availed of to eliminate bogus cards, with the result that as many as 6,043 bogus cards involving a population of 20,291 were detected in Bangalore alone in addition to 1,056 and 1,012 cards with a population of 6,043 and 4,414, respectively, in the Cities of Mysore and Davangere, respectively.

326. In order to make bread available at a reasonable price to consumers, the maximum price of bread was fixed in Bangalore City from time to time. The number of bakeries working at the end of the year was 199.

327. With a view to overcoming the anticipated food shortages in the country consequent upon the heavy loss of food production in the several States brought about by natural calamities, one of the important decisions taken at the All-India Food Conference held at Bombay in December 1950 was to tighten up austerity measures. The Ministry of Food, Government of India, proposed certain austerity measures for being adopted by all the States. Accordingly, the Mysore Food (Restriction of Service of Meals by Catering Establishments and Others) Order of 1949 was revised and reissued as the Mysore Food (Austerity Measures in Service of Meals) Order, 1951, incorporating all the relevant measures proposed by the Government of India including the avoidance of organising or undertaking entertainments or feeding in public or private on any lavish scale and wide publicity to the provisions of the order was given.

228. Owing to the difficult position for grains continuing during the year, periodical Press Notes were issued from time to time impressing upon the public the seriousness of the food position and appealing for their co-operation in conserving the limited stocks of cereals and sugar.

329. Under Section 30-A (1) of the Mysore Village Panchayet (Amendment Emergency) Act, 1949, licenses were issued by the Amildars for opening new hotels and coffee clubs. This resulted in an unregulated increase of hotels in rural parts, contrary to the accepted policy of restricting their number. Orders were therefore issued in September 1950 that so long as the Food Restriction Order

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dated 20th January 1949 remained in force, it was quite necessary to obtain the approval of the Director of Food Supplies before the issue of licenses for hotels, etc. In the light of this and of further instructions issued, 1,343 hotels were closed down—55 in urban areas and 1,288 in rural areas during the year.

Sugar.

330. The sugar supply position remained satisfactory till mid-April 1950, when owing to the drying up of Krishnarajasagara Reservoir and the resulting loss of cane crop the Sugar Factory had to suddenly stop operations. This resulted in a shortfall in the anticipated production of sugar for the season by about 4,000 tons. A situation thus arose which made it necessary to take measures to conserve the existing stocks. A reduction in the scale of issues from 2¼ lbs. to 2 lbs. in the case of "A" Class and 1 lb. in the case of "B" class was therefore imposed. To further economise the consumption of sugar, issues to hotels were cut by twenty-five per cent and new concerns involving the use of sugar were not permitted to be started. In July 1950, the scale of issues to cardholders was again further reduced to 1¼ lbs. and 3/4 lbs. to the "A" and "B" classes, respectively, and cuts were made in the quantities of sugar issued for industrial and commercial purposes. The Central Government were approached for an allotment of at least 6,000 tons of sugar from outside sources to meet the requirements of the State till January 1951. As there was no indication of an immediate allotment of sugar from the Centre, a further overall cut of ten per cent had to be made in the supplies for trade purposes, such as to manufacturers of sweetmeats, confectionery, cool drinks, etc., as well as to hotels and restaurants. In September 1950, the Central Government made an allotment of 2,000 tons of sugar from the Factories in Madras and Bihar which began to arrive towards the end of 1950. In December 1950, an allotment of 2,650 tons was made to the State by the Centre for consumption during January and February 1951, of which 1,050 tons were allotted from the Mysore Sugar Company, the balance being from U.P. Factories. Intimation of a further allotment of 2,650 tons for consumption during March and April 1951 was received in January 1951.

331. The ex-Factory price of Mandya sugar for the 1950-51 season was fixed at Rs. 29-12-0 per maund. On a

representation by the Mysore Sugar Company that they had undergone heavy losses owing to the drying up of the Krishnarajasagara and the consequent loss of the cane crop and short production during the 1950-51 season, the Central Government fixed the price of Mandya sugar at Rs. 33 per maund as a special case. The retail price of sugar was revised and fixed at Rs. 1-6-6, Rs. 1-7-6 and Rs. 1-8-0 for 3 lbs. at all District Headquarters, Taluk Headquarters and interior depots, respectively.

Jaggery.

332. As the sugar supply position began to deteriorate by about the middle of 1950, jaggery which was till then easily available in the market became scarce and its price began to shoot up to unprecedented levels. With a view to check this increasing price, the export of jaggery outside the State was prohibited by Government with effect from 3rd May 1950 and the Central Government brought jaggery under control by passing the Sugar and Gur Control Order, 1950. Since jaggery continued to be scarce in the market, stocks had to be freezed in order to make jaggery available to the consumers and the ceiling price for the sale of jaggery in Mysore in the interior and deficit places of the State slightly revised and enhanced so as to cover the additional cost of transport.

Chillies.

333. The ban imposed on export of chillies in November 1949 was lifted as a temporary measure till the end of May 1950 as the stocks of this commodity were reported to have accumulated both with the growers and the merchants. In December 1950 the ban on the export of chillies was withdrawn. The ban on the export of groundnuts was also withdrawn from 10th November 1950.

Vegetable Oil Products.

334. The Mysore Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1948, continued to be in force till 25th November 1950 when the Government of India extended their "Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947" to Mysore.

Food Subsidies.

335. Consequent upon decontrol early in 1948, the prices of foodgrains rose to unprecedented levels and it became necessary at the time of reimposition of controls towards the end of that year to fix higher purchase prices for locally procured foodgrains but without at the same time raising the issue prices. This resulted in the payment of subsidy even on locally procured foodgrains. During 1948-49 and 1949-50, Government incurred a subsidy

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expenditure of Rs. 29 lakhs and Rs. 42 lakhs, respectively on locally procured foodgrains. The total subsidy incurred during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 were as follows:—

		Rs.
1948-49	...	... 1,50,61,703
1949-50	...	... 1,26,00,000

336. With effect from October 1948, however, the Government of India agreed to bear 50 per cent of the State's losses on subsidy and with the financial integration brought about from 1st April 1950, the Centre's share of subsidy was increased to 75 per cent. Accordingly, subsidy assistance to an extent of Rs. 107 lakhs from the Centre was received for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50. The policy of subsidisation by the Centre was, however, revised with effect from 1st January 1951 in the light of proposals by the Government of India discussed at the Food Ministers' Conference held in December 1950 at Bombay. So far as Mysore is concerned, the supply of 70,000 tons out of the ceiling quota of 75,000 tons for 1951 was agreed to be made at subsidised rates. A sum of Rs. 35,56,892 was paid by the Centre to this State as bonus for the period October 1948 to the end of June 1950 in connection with the reimposition of controls in 1948 and with a view to encourage larger internal procurement. The bonus scheme was revised from 1st January 1951 as a result of which the payment of bonus is co-ordinated directly to the ceiling quota of imports and only indirectly to local procurement. On the basis of the revised scheme, the food bonus payable to the State during the calendar year 1951 is estimated to be about Rs. 5 lakhs.

Fuel Supplies.

337. The supply of fuel to Bangalore through the agency of Messrs. Mysore National Contractors and Suppliers was continued till the end of December 1950 and further extended till the end of the official year, *i.e.*, 31st March 1951. On account of the increase in population, influx of outsiders and increased consumption by the industrial concerns, the demand for fuel was on the increase during the year. But owing to the supplies on Government account being supplemented by the private trade channels consequent on partial decontrol of fuel, the fuel supply position was satisfactory during the year. As a

measure of gradual relaxation of control over fuel, all varieties of fuel except casuarina was freely allowed to be moved from July 1950 to be moved by road to Bangalore under the usual mafi pass obtained either from the Amildar or from the Officer of the Forest Department.

338. The Central Food Council continued to function during the year and met 9 times. Food Councils

339. One thousand forty-two prosecution cases were pending disposal at the commencement of the year. Three thousand seven hundred and seventy-one cases were instituted during the year making a total of 4,813 cases for disposal. Of these, 988 cases ended in acquittal or discharge, 17 cases were withdrawn and 2,659 cases ended in convictions, leaving a balance of 1,149 cases undisposed of at the close of the year. Foodgrains worth Rs. 37,439 involved in the above cases were confiscated by Government.

340. A sum of Rs. 15,000 under 'Rewards and Secret Services' was sanctioned in the first instance for granting rewards to deserving cases of detection and successful prosecution of cases of smuggling and other offences against food rules, and an additional sum of Rs. 7,000 was sanctioned in March 1951 for this purpose. Food Police.

341. Foodgrains of the value of Rs. 5,61,10,955 were purchased locally and foodgrains of the gross value of Rs. 3,77,88,318 were purchased from outside the State. The sales during the year amounted to Rs. 9,10,00,312. The value of closing stock on hand at the end of the year was Rs. 3,09,61,348. The Central Government's share of subsidy due or received from the Government of India on foodgrains imported during the year was Rs. 46,29,451. The net deficit under food supply operation amounted to Rs. 56,26,531.

342. The Foodgrains Procurement (Thirumala Rao) Committee toured in Mysore in May 1950 and have made appreciative references in their reports to the efficiency of the Food Administration in the State.

(ii) Civil Supplies

343. In accordance with the All-India policy, the Mysore Cotton Textiles (Control) Order, 1948, and the Mysore Cotton Textiles (Control of Movement) Order, 1948, Textiles.